Holiday Bowl: Luke Falk leads WSU against Michigan State today, 6 p.m.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Post-Holiday Bowl, the Cougs have a lot to look forward to

MATT CALKINS > C1

Blue Origin expands Kent footprint

BUSINESS > A10

Horses euthanized after herpes outbreak

NWTHURSDAY > B1

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CLOUDS, RAIN
High, 45. Low, 41. > B8
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Fund For The Needy

Join The Seattle Times in forging a stronger community by helping families and children in need.

Family left homeless again, but with help, perseveres

ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Shawn Babineau, Tai Powell and their daughter, Taylor, inside Wellspring Family Services' Baby Boutique, which Powell manages and where he says he gets to help people "going through what we went through." Parents can shop at the boutique for clothing, toys, car seats and strollers.

By CHRISTINE CLARRIDGE
Seattle Times staff reporter

The last night Tai Powell and Shawn Babineau spent outside in the cold was not something they'll forget.

The longtime couple had been through hard times before; they'd been homeless and lived in tent cities. But not with their daughter, and not after the hard work they'd been doing to move forward.

About two years ago in the middle of a bitter winter, the landlord of the Eastside condo they rented decided to lease it to a relative instead.

"It felt worse to be homeless after having a home and feeling like we'd come so far," said Thomas "Tai" Powell, 42. "But at the same time, it was a turning point in my life. I didn't want to let my family down again."

Although the two parents both were clean and sober at the time, they redoubled their commitment to their 12-step recovery programs with new resolve and a deeper willingness to do the hard work required for permanent change.

They also sought out mental-health treatment and accepted assistance from the Department of Social and Health Services that mandated participation in work programs. They were fast-tracked for housing in Seattle and started going back to school.

But they were still struggling to find stability.

That is until Babineau, 37, was introduced to the Baby Boutique at Wellspring Family Services,

See > FUND, A9

ABOUT THE SERIES

The Seattle Times Fund For The Needy raises money for 12 local charities that help children, families and senior citizens. You can donate online at seattletimes.com/ffn. To give by mail, send the coupon on page A11 along with a check, money order or credit-card information.

2018 will bring paid sick leave to workers

WASHINGTON STATE

Minimum wage will also increase, to $11.50 per hour

By RACHEL LERMAN
Seattle Times business reporter

Another year is on its way in, and that means another minimum-wage increase for workers across Washington state. This time, Jan. 1 also brings paid sick leave to nearly all employed Washingtonians.

The changes to workplace wages in 2018 will be mostly incremental. Washington state's minimum-wage increases from $11 to $11.50 per hour. Young workers — 14 or 15 years old — can be paid at a lower rate, $9.78 per hour. (Those younger teens are restricted in how many hours they can work, which is generally 16 hours per week during the school year and 40 hours a week when school is out.)

Across the state, just 1.4 percent of full-time-equivalent jobs earned Washington's minimum wage of $9.47 in 2016, a drop from 2.1 percent in 2015, accord-

See > BENEFITS, A9

Social-service agency added to suit over Lyles' death

SOLID GROUND

Nonprofit failed to report earlier threat to police, revised filing says

By STEVE MILETICH
Seattle Times staff reporter

The nonprofit social-service agency that provided housing to Charleena Lyles has been added to a wrongful-death lawsuit previously brought against the two Seattle police officers who fatally shot Lyles in June.

In new language added to the suit, Lyles' estate and the appointed guardian for her four children allege that the agency, Solid Ground, failed weeks before the shooting to report to police a playground incident in which Lyles allegedly threatened children with a knife.

The suit, refiled Wednesday by attorneys Karen Koehler and Edward Moore, also accuses

See > LAWSUIT, A8

Billionaires Bezos, Gates got even richer in 2017

FORTUNES OF WORLD'S WEALTHIEST GREW $1 TRILLION

Seattle's Amazon founder, Microsoft co-founder at top

By TOM METCALF AND JACK WITZIG
Bloomberg News

The richest people on Earth became $1 trillion richer in 2017, more than four times last year's gain, as stock markets shrugged off economic, social and political divisions to reach record highs.

Jeff Bezos, worth $99.6B

Bill Gates, worth $91.3B

Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos added the most in 2017, with a $34.2 billion gain that knocked Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates out of his spot as the world's richest person in October. Gates, 62, had held the spot since May 2013, and he has been donating much of his fortune to charity, including a $4.6 billion pledge he made to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in August. Bezos, whose net worth topped $100 billion at the end of November, now has a net worth of $99.6 billion compared with $91.3 billion for Gates.

George Soros also gave away a substantial part of his fortune, revealing in October that his family office had given $18 billion to his Open Society Foundations over the past several years, dropping the billionaire investor to No. 195 on the Bloomberg ranking, with a net worth of $8 billion.

By the end of trading Tuesday, the 500 billionaires controlled $5.3 trillion, up from $4.4 trillion on Dec. 27, 2016.

"It's part of the second-most robust and second-longest bull

See > WEALTH, A8

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